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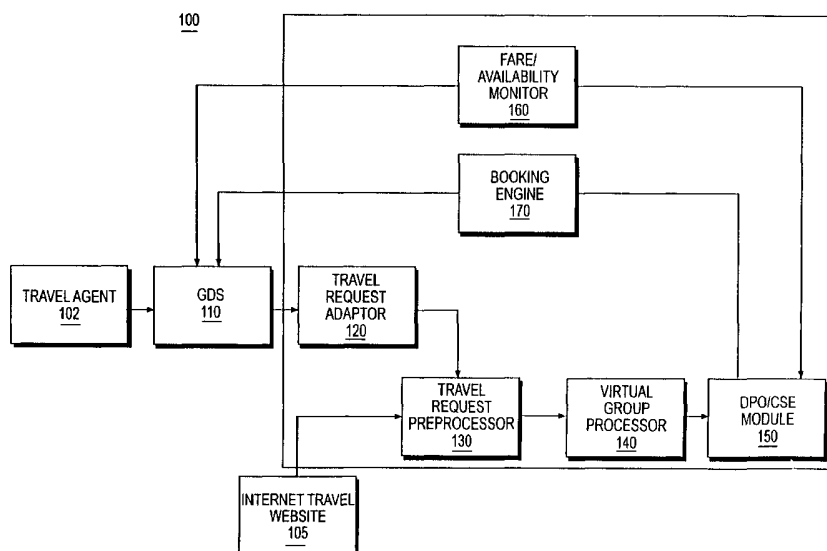
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **SABRE INC.** [US/US]; 4255 Amon Carter Boulevard, MD 4204, Fort Worth, TX 76155 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **MILLER, Rodney, D.** [US/US]; 4120 Wimbledon Drive, Fower Mound, TX 75028 (US). **TERRY, Lezlie, M.** [US/US]; 1467 Pacific Place, Ft Worth. TX 76112 (US). **NILSON, Victor, A.** [US/US]; 1656 Royal Oaks Court, Southlake, TX 76092 (US).
- (74) Agents: **GARRETT, Arthur, S.**; Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, L.L.P., 1300 I Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005-3315 et al. (US).
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— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR CONTINUOUS FARE SHOPPING AND VIRTUAL GROUPING OF ITINERARY REQUESTS



(57) Abstract: A system and methods for auctioning consumer demand to suppliers comprising: a request adapter (120) for receiving a first data set in a first protocol, converting the first data set to a second data set in a second intermediate protocol, then converting the second data set to a third data set in a third protocol; a request preprocessor (130) for filtering the third data set; a virtual group processor (140) for receiving filtered, not rejected third data and creating at least one group, including the third data set and other data sets in the third protocol; and a dynamic packaging orchestrator and continuous shopping engine (150) for managing the at least one group, shopping for bids on at least one product represented in the at least one group, and booking the at least one product based on the received bids.



WO 02/065234 A3



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/01245

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 17/60

US CL : 705/5

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 705/5, 6, 13, 15; 340/825.28

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,781,892 A (HUNT et al.) 14 July 1998 (14.07.1998); see abstract; column 2, lines 12-53; column 3, lines 32-62; column 5, lines 3-10; column 7, lines 5-57.	1-31
X	US 6,134,534 A (WALKER et al.) 17 October 2000 (17.10.2000), see abstract; column 1, lines 28-33; column 2, line 42 - column 3, line 48; column 5, lines 8-45; column 6, lines 1-16; column 7, line 63 - column 8, line 9; column 8, lines 36-57; column 20, lines 40-61.	1-31
X	US 6,157,927 A (SCHAEFER et al.) 05 December 2000 (05.12.2000), see column 1, lines 30-49; column 2, line 50 - column 3, line 18.	1-31
X, P	US 6,275,843 B1 (CHORN) 14 August 2001 (14.08.2001), see abstract; column 2, line 33 - column 3, line 13.	1-31
X, P	US 6,304,850 B1 (KELLER et al.) 16 October 2001 (16.10.2001), see entire document.	1-31
X, P	US 6,330,617 B1 (BAMFORTH et al.) 11 December 2001 (11.12.2001), see abstract; column 1, lines 11-55; column 2, lines 45-60.	1-31
X	Belden, Tom. "Internet has potential to really hurt travel companies." Florida Times Union; Jacksonville, Florida; April 10, 2000. (abstract, full text) ProQuest [online] [retrieved on 29.05.2002].	1-31

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	
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"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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Box PCT
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Facsimile No.

Authorized officer

Emanuel T. Voeltz

Telephone No. 703-305-3900

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International application No.

PCT/US02/01245

C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Levere, Jane L. "Slowing Business Travel Means Savings for Tourists." The New York Times; New York, New York; January 28, 2001. (abstract, full text) ProQuest [online] [retrieved 29.05.2002].	1-31

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/01245

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

USPGPUB, USPAT, DERWENT, EPO, JPO, IBM-TDB, PROQUEST
travel auction, computer reservation system, conditional purchase offer